



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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**Consumer Price Index  
Midwest Region  
August 2002**

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.3 percent in August, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Regional Commissioner Peter J. Hebein, rising prices for apparel and housing accounted for almost half of the increase. Over the year, the Midwest CPI-U rose 1.6 percent. In contrast, energy prices declined 2.4 percent over the year. Excluding the impact of energy, the Midwest CPI-U was up 2.1 percent. The Midwest CPI-U stood at 175.8 in August. This means that a typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$175.80 in August 2002.

Food and beverage prices rose 0.2 percent in August, after declining by a similar amount in July. The cost of food at home (grocery food) edged up 0.1 percent while the cost of food away from home rose 0.3 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices were 0.7 percent higher. Over the year, the food and beverages component was up 0.9 percent as the cost of food at home edged down 0.1 percent and the cost of food away from home rose 2.1 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices increased 1.8 percent over the year.

Table A. Percent changes in the Midwest CPI-U, (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure Category	Changes from preceding month							12 mo. ended Aug. 02
	2001	2002						
	Aug.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	
All items	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	1.6
Food & beverages	.3	-.1	.1	.1	0	-.2	.2	.9
Housing	0	.4	.3	.2	.9	.1	.2	1.9
Apparel	-.2	4.4	1.1	-1.1	-3.0	-4.1	1.9	-3.2
Transportation	1.2	1.8	2.0	.1	-.4	.3	0	.2
Medical care	.4	.6	.1	.3	.3	.7	.1	4.6
Recreation	.3	.1	.9	-.4	.2	.4	.8	2.1
Education & communication	.5	-.1	-.5	-.2	.3	.6	1.1	3.6
Other goods & services	-1.1	-1.4	1.9	-.7	1.5	.4	.1	4.9

Housing costs rose 0.2 percent in August. Within the housing component, shelter costs rose 0.3 percent. Rent of a primary residence and owners' equivalent rent both rose 0.2 percent. The fuels and utilities index rose 0.4 percent as electricity prices increased 0.1 percent and natural gas prices gained 0.6 percent. The household furnishings and operations index declined 0.6 percent. Over the year, the housing component rose 1.9 percent. Shelter costs increased 3.4 percent over the year. The fuels and utilities index dropped 2.3 percent as electricity prices declined 0.5 percent and natural gas prices fell 7.8 percent.

Apparel prices rebounded in August, rising 1.9 percent after falling 4.1 percent in July. Apparel prices typically experience a seasonal decrease in summer and an increase in early autumn. Over the year, the apparel component was down 3.2 percent. Apparel is the only major expenditure category to experience an over-the-year price decline.

The transportation component was unchanged in August. New vehicle prices declined 0.4 percent while prices for used cars and trucks rose 0.5 percent. Gasoline prices retreated 1.0 percent, following an increase of 2.2 percent in July. Over the year, the transportation component was up 0.2 percent, as new and used motor vehicle prices declined 2.3 percent and gasoline prices declined 1.5 percent.

Medical care costs rose 0.1 percent in August. The cost of medical care commodities declined 0.6 percent, while prices for medical care services rose 0.3 percent. Over the year, the medical care component rose 4.6 percent. The cost of medical care commodities increased 3.3 percent over the year, while the cost of medical care services rose 5.0 percent.

The recreation component, which includes both recreational equipment and fees for recreational events, rose 0.8 percent in August. Over the year, recreation costs were up 2.1 percent.

The education and communication component advanced 1.1 percent in August. The education and communication component typically rises between August and October as new tuition rates go into effect. Over the year, this component increased 3.6 percent.

The other goods and services component increased 0.1 percent in August. Over the year, the other goods and services component was up 4.9 percent.

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Scheduled release date for the September 2002 CPI:  
Friday, October 18, 2002

### CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U.S. City Average and for the Chicago area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI Hotline service. This recorded message also provides percent changes from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The Hotline number in Chicago is (312) 353-1880. Select option #2 from the main menu.

### BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 280 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 30 metropolitan areas. To receive by fax a catalog of documents available on the service, call 312 353-1880, select option 1 from the main menu, and when prompted, order document 1000.

### BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPI's for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments-- department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 location. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 26 local area. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities, they only measure the average change in prices for each base period.

The index measure prices changes from a designated reference data (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Bulletin 2490, Chapter 17, April 1997, The Consumer Price Index, also available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/mpbls/oplc001.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/mpbls/oplc001.htm).

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods**

**Midwest<sup>1</sup>** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2002	July 2002	Aug. 2002	Aug. 2001	June 2002	July 2002
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	175.3	175.3	175.8	1.6	0.3	0.3
All items (December 1977=100) .....	285.2	285.2	286.0	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	173.0	172.7	173.0	.9	.0	.2
Food .....	172.3	171.9	172.1	.8	-.1	.1
Food at home .....	170.4	169.5	169.6	-.1	-.5	.1
Food away from home .....	175.6	175.9	176.4	2.1	.5	.3
Alcoholic beverages .....	182.4	182.2	183.5	1.8	.6	.7
Housing .....	172.8	173.0	173.3	1.9	.3	.2
Shelter .....	201.5	201.7	202.3	3.4	.4	.3
Rent of primary residence <sup>2</sup> .....	190.7	191.0	191.3	2.8	.3	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>2 3</sup> .....	206.8	206.9	207.4	3.8	.3	.2
Fuels and utilities .....	142.0	142.4	142.9	-2.3	.6	.4
Fuels .....	124.0	124.3	124.7	-3.3	.6	.3
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>2</sup> .....	130.1	130.5	130.9	-3.3	.6	.3
Electricity <sup>2</sup> .....	135.0	136.0	136.2	-.5	.9	.1
Utility natural gas service <sup>2</sup> .....	125.5	125.1	125.8	-7.8	.2	.6
Household furnishings and operations .....	124.3	124.1	123.3	-.6	-.8	-.6
Apparel .....	117.9	113.1	115.3	-3.2	-2.2	1.9
Transportation .....	153.9	154.3	154.3	.2	.3	.0
Private transportation .....	149.5	149.9	149.9	.3	.3	.0
New and used motor vehicles <sup>4</sup> .....	99.3	98.9	98.9	-2.3	-.4	.0
New vehicles .....	136.0	134.9	134.4	-2.2	-1.2	-.4
New cars and trucks <sup>4 5</sup> .....	96.0	95.2	94.9	-2.2	-1.1	-.3
New cars <sup>5</sup> .....	131.4	130.3	129.9	-2.0	-1.1	-.3
Used cars and trucks .....	152.5	153.1	153.9	-3.0	.9	.5
Motor fuel .....	123.0	125.7	124.4	-1.5	1.1	-1.0
Gasoline (all types) .....	122.4	125.1	123.9	-1.5	1.2	-1.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>5</sup> .....	120.8	123.9	122.4	-2.0	1.3	-1.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>5 6</sup> .....	135.1	137.3	136.1	-1.0	.7	-.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>5</sup> .....	125.9	127.9	127.1	-1.4	1.0	-.6
Medical care .....	280.0	282.0	282.2	4.6	.8	.1
Medical care commodities .....	252.9	253.2	251.8	3.3	-.4	-.6
Medical care services .....	287.3	289.9	290.7	5.0	1.2	.3
Professional services <sup>2</sup> .....	261.3	263.4	263.5	3.8	.8	.0
Recreation <sup>4</sup> .....	107.3	107.7	108.6	2.1	1.2	.8
Education and communication <sup>4</sup> .....	108.6	109.3	110.5	3.6	1.7	1.1
Other goods and services .....	288.2	289.3	289.5	4.9	.5	.1
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	175.3	175.3	175.8	1.6	.3	.3
Commodities .....	147.7	147.2	147.3	-.5	-.3	.1
Commodities less food and beverages .....	134.0	133.4	133.5	-1.3	-.4	.1
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	146.3	145.4	145.8	-.2	-.3	.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	166.3	167.6	167.0	1.1	.4	-.4
Durables .....	119.5	119.1	118.9	-2.3	-.5	-.2
Services .....	204.1	204.7	205.6	3.3	.7	.4
Rent of shelter <sup>3</sup> .....	207.2	207.4	207.9	3.3	.3	.2
Transportation services .....	214.2	214.3	215.2	4.1	.5	.4
Other services .....	240.2	241.8	244.1	4.6	1.6	1.0

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued**

**Midwest<sup>1</sup>** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2002	July 2002	Aug. 2002	Aug. 2001	June 2002	July 2002
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	169.9	169.8	170.4	1.5	0.3	0.4
All items less food .....	175.7	175.8	176.4	1.8	.4	.3
All items less shelter .....	167.6	167.5	168.0	1.0	.2	.3
Commodities less food .....	135.7	135.1	135.2	-1.2	-.4	.1
Nondurables .....	159.6	158.9	159.3	.4	-.2	.3
Nondurables less food .....	148.3	147.4	147.9	-.1	-.3	.3
Nondurables less food and apparel .....	167.0	168.2	167.7	1.0	.4	-.3
Services less rent of shelter <sup>3</sup> .....	212.0	213.1	214.4	3.2	1.1	.6
Services less medical care services .....	196.8	197.3	198.2	3.1	.7	.5
Energy .....	123.0	124.4	124.0	-2.4	.8	-.3
All items less energy .....	183.2	183.0	183.7	2.1	.3	.4
All items less food and energy .....	185.8	185.7	186.4	2.3	.3	.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	142.1	141.0	141.3	-.9	-.6	.2
Energy commodities .....	122.6	125.2	124.0	-1.5	1.1	-1.0
Services less energy services .....	213.6	214.3	215.2	3.8	.7	.4

<sup>1</sup> The 'North Central' region has been renamed the 'Midwest' region by the Census Bureau. It is composed of the same geographic entities.

<sup>2</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>6</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

**Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Selected areas, all items index**

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Area	All items										
	Pricing schedule 1	Indexes				Percent change to Aug. 2002 from—			Percent change to July 2002 from—		
		May 2002	June 2002	July 2002	Aug. 2002	Aug. 2001	June 2002	July 2002	July 2001	May 2002	June 2002
U.S. city average .....	M	179.8	179.9	180.1	180.7	1.8	0.4	0.3	1.5	0.2	0.1
<b>Region and area size<sup>2</sup></b>											
Northeast urban .....	M	187.7	187.8	188.3	189.3	2.3	.8	.5	1.8	.3	.3
Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....	M	189.2	189.5	190.1	191.3	2.6	.9	.6	2.1	.5	.3
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 <sup>3</sup> .....	M	112.0	111.6	111.8	112.0	1.4	.4	.2	1.0	-.2	.2
Midwest urban .....	M	174.8	175.3	175.3	175.8	1.6	.3	.3	1.6	.3	.0
Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....	M	177.2	177.7	177.5	178.2	1.9	.3	.4	1.8	.2	-.1
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 <sup>3</sup> .....	M	110.8	111.2	111.3	111.4	1.0	.2	.1	1.2	.5	.1
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000) .....	M	168.2	168.9	169.4	169.7	1.7	.5	.2	2.0	.7	.3
South urban .....	M	173.2	173.5	173.6	173.8	1.3	.2	.1	1.2	.2	.1
Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....	M	174.6	174.9	174.8	175.4	1.8	.3	.3	1.3	.1	-.1
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 <sup>3</sup> .....	M	110.7	110.9	111.0	110.9	1.0	.0	-.1	1.1	.3	.1
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000) .....	M	170.6	171.6	172.2	172.7	1.5	.6	.3	1.2	.9	.3
West urban .....	M	184.8	184.5	184.7	185.3	1.9	.4	.3	1.5	-.1	.1
Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....	M	187.5	187.2	187.4	187.9	2.1	.4	.3	1.7	-.1	.1
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 <sup>3</sup> .....	M	112.5	112.2	112.5	113.0	1.6	.7	.4	1.0	.0	.3
<b>Size classes</b>											
A <sup>4</sup> .....	M	164.3	164.5	164.6	165.3	2.1	.5	.4	1.7	.2	.1
B/C <sup>3</sup> .....	M	111.2	111.3	111.4	111.5	1.2	.2	.1	1.0	.2	.1
D .....	M	172.4	173.0	173.3	173.9	1.6	.5	.3	1.3	.5	.2
<b>Selected local areas<sup>5</sup></b>											
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI .....	M	181.4	182.1	181.2	181.6	2.0	-.3	.2	2.0	-.1	-.5
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA ..	M	182.6	181.9	182.2	183.0	2.6	.6	.4	2.2	-.2	.2
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA .....	M	191.4	191.5	192.0	193.1	2.7	.8	.6	2.2	.3	.3
Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT ....	1	194.8	-	195.7	-	-	-	-	1.9	.5	-
Cleveland-Akron, OH .....	1	173.0	-	173.4	-	-	-	-	.0	.2	-
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX .....	1	172.9	-	172.9	-	-	-	-	.8	.0	-
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV <sup>6</sup> .....	1	112.8	-	113.4	-	-	-	-	2.3	.5	-
Atlanta, GA .....	2	-	179.1	-	179.7	1.6	.3	-	-	-	-
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI .....	2	-	179.0	-	180.9	3.3	1.1	-	-	-	-
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX .....	2	-	158.3	-	160.1	.9	1.1	-	-	-	-
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL .....	2	-	174.4	-	175.2	1.0	.5	-	-	-	-
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD .....	2	-	186.3	-	188.3	3.0	1.1	-	-	-	-
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA .....	2	-	193.2	-	193.5	1.3	.2	-	-	-	-
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA .....	2	-	189.4	-	190.3	1.9	.5	-	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Foods, fuels, and several other items priced every month in all areas; most other goods and services priced as indicated:

M - Every month.

1 - January, March, May, July, September, and November.

2 - February, April, June, August, October, and December.

<sup>2</sup> Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map in technical notes.

<sup>3</sup> Indexes on a December 1996=100 base.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1986=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> In addition, the following metropolitan areas are published semiannually and appear in Tables 34 and 39 of the January and July issues of the CPI Detailed Report: Anchorage, AK; Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN; Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO; Honolulu, HI; Kansas City, MO-KS; Milwaukee-Racine, WI; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; Pittsburgh, PA;

Portland-Salem, OR-WA; St. Louis, MO-IL; San Diego, CA; Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL.

<sup>6</sup> Indexes on a November 1996=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Local area indexes are byproducts of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in their escalator clauses.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.